

DRUG-RELATED DEATH RATE

Objective

By 1990, drug-related mortality should be reduced to two per 100,000 population.

Explanatory Notes

Excludes deaths caused by alcohol. Consists of ICD codes E850-858, E950.0-950.5, E980.0-980.5 of the Ninth Revision and E850-859, E950.0-950.3 and E980.0-980.3 of the Eighth Revision.

Findings

Death rates for drug-related causes rose for both North Carolina and the United States during the 1980s. For N.C., the death rates rose faster than projected during the late eighties.

Based on toxicology tests performed on approximately 85 percent of N.C. Medical Examiner cases in 1989, the largest numbers of these deaths involved anti-depressants (51 deaths), abused drugs (64 deaths), and opiates (15 deaths). A striking trend is the rise in cocaine-related deaths, from three in 1981 to 54 in 1989.

Related National Year 2000 Objectives

- o Reduce drug-related deaths to no more than three per 100,000 people.
- o Reduce drug abuse-related hospital emergency department visits by at least 20 percent.
- o Reduce the proportion of young people who have used alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine in the past month as follows:

Substance/Age	2000 Target
Alcohol/12-17	12.6%
Alcohol/18-20	29.0%
Marijuana/12-17	3.2%
Marijuana/18-25	7.8%
Cocaine/12-17	0.6%
Cocaine/18-25	2.4%

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health and Environmental Statistics
Office of Chief Medical Examiner
United States: National Center for Health Statistics